

## • Abroad •

**Léopoldville.** The opposition of all non-Communist leaders to the Indian national, Rajeshwar Dayal, as UN proconsul, and to the import of thousands of Indian combat troops is based in part on specific recent experience: Dayal and the Indians have consistently aided the Lumumba-Gizenga crowd and the Soviet line. But in the background is a fact of sub-Saharan African life of which American public opinion is unaware. To native inhabitants around much of the Indian Ocean periphery, the Indians loom as the major "imperialist threat." For several generations, Indians by the thousands have been migrating to East and Central Africa. They have formed tightly knit, aggressive communities, with a social attitude of scornful "Indian superiority" toward black men. In many areas they are rather like the Jews and the Chinese in other parts of the world, with retail trade, import-export business and finance (especially usury) in their hands. Many native Africans see Dayal and the tough Sikhs and Gurkhas as a spearhead of deeper Indian imperialist penetration. They also see that the Indians are arriving on U. S. planes.

**Port Louis, Mauritius.** Perhaps no other spot on earth faces more starkly the problem of the twentieth century population explosion than this 720 square mile British-ruled island, isolated in the middle of the Indian Ocean 550 miles off Madagascar. Its population is now 650,000, or 990 per square mile, up from 420,000 six years ago, doubled since the war. The cause is science: wiping out malaria, lowering infant mortality with no reduction in the birth rate (there are currently four births for each death). The only important industry is sugar, which the world has running out of its ears, and no one has suggested what other important industry there could be with neither resources nor market available.

**Watford, England.** A huge, neon-lit café, the *Busy Bee*, near one end of Britain's first superhighway, M-1, is the rendezvous of the Ton Kids. These are black-jacketed teenagers who, by the hundreds, wheel out their motorcycles, late at night or at dawn, to roar down M-1's 72 miles and back. M-1's third lane is informally reserved for riders who periodically move out from the pack to "break the ton"—i.e., beat 100 mph. The leading Ton Kids disown the "coffee-bar cowboys" who think it chicken to wear crash helmets. "Not that I haven't done the ton," the *Manchester Guardian* reports one Kid to have added the other night at the *Busy Bee*. "I haven't done it on the motorway, either; that's too boring. I've been in one or two burn-ups as well. That's when you're going along and a kid overtakes you. Then you overtake him, and he overtakes you again, and so on. I live for motorbikes. A teenager's life is really boring these days and motor-bikes have real kicks. The government ought to do something for teenagers. Youth clubs are no good. Why do they think I'm interested in carpentry and sign-songs?"

**Cape Town.** Faced with the grim problems raised by its split with the Commonwealth, South Africans take some comfort from the complete failure of the past year's ardently publicized consumer boycott movement. In Britain, Labor, Left and Liberals have been promoting the boycott since February, 1960. Nevertheless, in the twelve months ending January 31, 1961, South African imports into Britain actually rose: from £90 million to £97 million. There were substantial increases even in those products easily distinguishable as South African in origin.



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"One or two of you may have doubts as to my regime's ability to withstand a Castro-type rebellion."

**Abidjan, Ivory Coast Republic.** This former French colony is linked with Upper Volta, Dahomey and Niger in the "Council of the Entente." On their united insistence, France has reluctantly agreed to negotiate revised co-operative agreements without the condition that these four new nations remain inside the "French Community." This development would seem to signal the beginning of the collapse of General de Gaulle's cherished concept. Of the thirteen former French African colonies, only six still consider themselves Community members. Guinea of course never did join. The institutions set up to administer Community affairs are not functioning. Neither the senate nor the council of Community premiers has met for a year. What little the Community Secretariat has managed to accomplish has been under continuous criticism.

**London.** The official sessions of the Commonwealth Conference were preoccupied with the issue of South Africa. Sir Roy Welensky, Premier of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland—who was sadder than any other participant, except possibly Prime Minister Macmillan, at the official result—used his off-duty hours to test his idea for a Central African Union. This would be, in its first stage, a kind of common market comprising the Federation, Katanga, Mozambique and Angola. Economically and geographically these areas supplement each other, with the mineral, agricultural and industrial potential of the healthy Rhodesia-Katanga plateau finding its outlet to the sea through the Portuguese territories. These latter, in turn, link naturally with South Africa.

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